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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
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Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 19. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. At its 20th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 19, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed their support for the programme activities and welcomed the new thematic approach adopted by ESCWA and the reorganization of its secretariat. Some delegations expressed the hope that the reorganization would lead to a more effective use of ESCWA resources, with greater attention being paid to priority activities.

3. Some delegations considered that subprogramme 2, Improvement of the quality of life, should be designated high priority and that ESCWA should avoid duplication of work with other organizations in the region.

4. Some delegations requested information about the timing and resource implications of the transfer of ESCWA headquarters to Beirut.

5. Some delegations asked whether the reorganization of the ESCWA secretariat had been completed. Other delegations welcomed the assurances by the Secretariat that the reorganization was in compliance with the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in its report (A/49/891, annex.)

6. Some delegations rejected the inclusion in paragraph 19.14 of "(c) to regionalize human development concepts and indices" as an objective. They considered that those concepts and indices had no mandates, since General Assembly resolution 49/123 of 19 December 1994 stated clearly that the Human Development Report was not an official document of the United Nations.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it review the programme narrative of section 19, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.